the Nation

Volume 3, No. 06 • February 16, 1996
every two weeks

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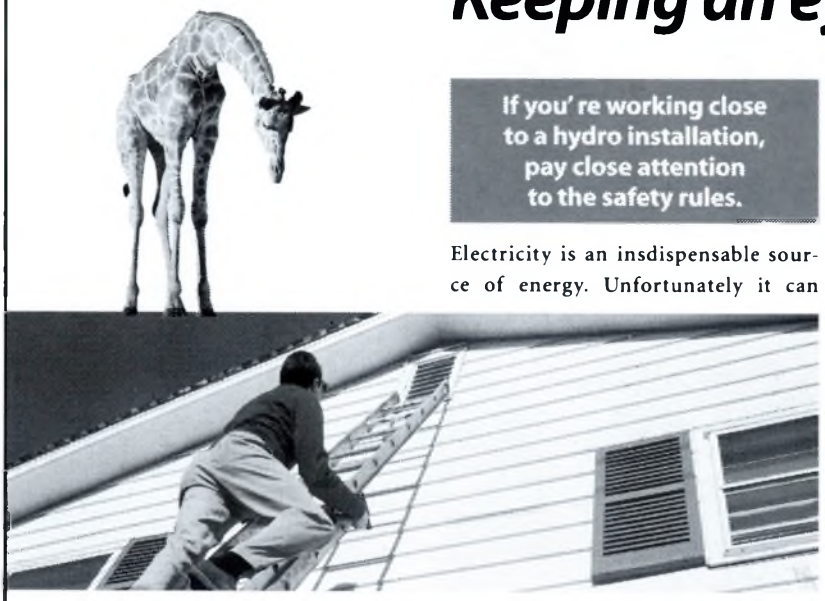
Serving the James Bay Cree Nations since 1993

Keeping an eye on safety



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is accepting applications from First Nations, Métis and Inuit persons for artistic training, through its **Education and Professional Development Programs**; for assistance to festivals and cultural events which have a youth component, through its **Incentive and Awareness Program**; for support to emerging professional artists, through its **Visual Art Acquisition Program**.

To apply or for more information, please contact Lorre Jensen, Director of Education:

CANADIAN NATIVE ARTS FOUNDATION
77 Mowat Avenue, Suite 508
Toronto, Ontario M6K 3E3
(416) 588-3328 (tel.)
(416) 588-9198 (fax)

Application deadlines are firm: March 31 and September 30.

Same old, same old

Well, I didn't expect the response I got to my last editorial about the money-making possibilities of adopting non-Natives who are trying to avoid taxes.

It's been mixed. Someone pointed out that the rich folks out there also have tons of connections in the business and political structure of this country so getting them on our side might be worth it in the long run. I also had some people talk to me about adoption. Guess they wanted in before a price tag was attached!

A lot of the comments were "no kidding" and do I know someone on both sides of the track... rich adoptees or Native adopters. By the way, Alex is looking for someone to adopt him. If you're interested in a loving son who'll take care of you in your old age give *The Nation* a call at (514) 272-3077 and we'll start the paperwork rolling (*uh, just for tax purposes mom & dad -AR*). By the way no blood brother wrist-slitting ceremony required.

We'll have to act quickly before the government catches on. Of course knowing their bureaucracy in current and past dealings with Native people, we should be able to Native-ize the entire country before the slow wheels of government finally grind to another halt to deal with the problem. Perhaps we'll even get another Royal Commission to deal with the rapidly expanding Native population. Maybe it'll even mean something this time around.

The only real problem will be who'll be left to pay the taxes to allow our South Sea paradises to operate? Perhaps we could exclude some people/occupations/etc. (i.e. the Reform Party) from the adoption system. Give me a call and we'll print the list in some future edition of *The Nation*.

Well, I think it's time for another topic of interest Cree jobs. Whatever happened to those 150 jobs promised by 1996 by Hydro-Quebec in the La Grande Agreement? Perhaps we could just adopt 150 Hydro workers. But I digress. Back to the jobs issue. I would think that our leadership more than anyone understands the unemployment situation in the communities and will make this a priority. I mean a deal's a deal right? Last time I looked in the court, many a battle was being fought over a little thing called non-performance.

by William Nicholls

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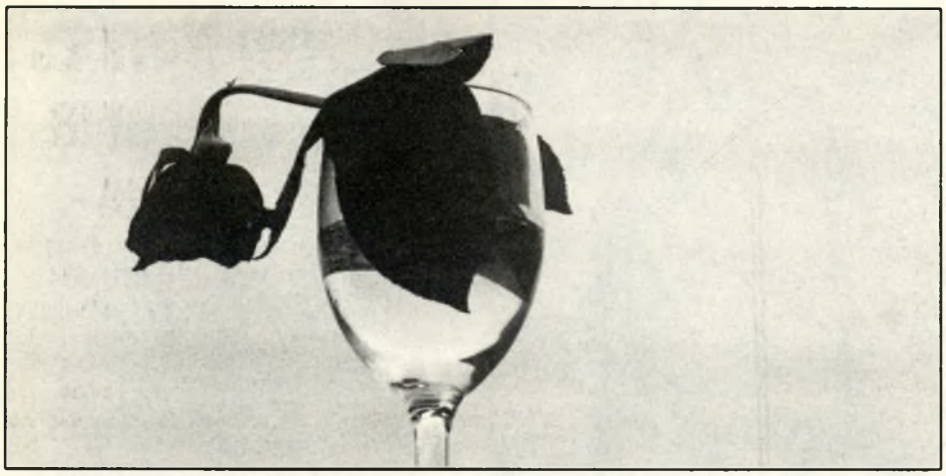
COVER:
Cree couple
Photo courtesy of Pierre Lemay

FEBRUARY 16, 1996



We are back and feeling much better about ourselves, thank you. We came very close to being inundated with submissions from people throughout Cree country. Thanks to all who took pity and came to the rescue. We will forever be grateful. But don't stop there. Keep your eyes peeled and ears open for anything amiss (or not) and send it in. We *must* stand together. One Nation. Under Matthew.

You can imagine my joy when I came upon this story in the *Windspeaker*, with a headline that read, **Mystery Light Enchants North**. The article says that since January 4, 80 "credible people" have witnessed an unexplained white light moving through they sky just above the treeline in Fort Resolution (Fort Rez), N.W.T. These lucky people were "treated to a show of bright red, blue and green flashes of light coming from underneath the intense white glow." But that's not all. Even National Defence stumbled into town on January the 10th to "investigate." As usual they failed to come up with an explanation but are sure they are not conducting military exercises in the area.

In a related story (we hope), a British Airways 737 saw a "lighted, wedge-shaped object" as it approached Manchester airport on January 6, 1995. The strange sight made no sound and no turbulence was felt. The article goes on to say that an official committee was baffled by the pilot's report.

In more down-to-earth developments, we have received the results of the weight-off between the Waskaganish council and the local School Board. It seems I'm losing my bet. After three weeks, the council team, with 28 competitors, is leading by a few pounds. They have lost a total of 116.62 lbs. Their weight in total at the beginning was (you better sit down for this) 5602.63 lbs. The school board's collective weight of 5020.18 lbs. is now down to 4924.22 lbs. A loss of 95.96 pounds. The fax exclaims, "One person lost 17 and a half pounds!!!"

Someone stop and tell the Raid Des Braves participants to check out the sound their mufflers make. Legendary motorcycle maker **Harley Davidson** is seeking a patent on the rumble its engines emit. Other odd sound patents include the MGM lion's roar and the NBC chimes.

Lucy Meeko of Kuujuarapik/Whapmagoostui/Great Whale/Poste De La Baleine, captured two awards in international snowsculpting competitions in France at the end of January. One of her relatives tell me she received the first prize for Quebec and Third for Canada.

Cree martial arts enthusiasts will be happy to hear that for the first time in Montreal, Shaolin monks will be at the Theatre St. Denis on March the 3rd. They will demonstrate two-fingered handstands and perform other seemingly impossible feats. Bring your steeltoe boots - **Alex** tells me that audience members are cordially invited to kick a monk in the nuts as hard they can. Call 514-849-4211 to get your kicks in.

Happy Valentine's Day.

Ndiamon

the Nation

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OONA PAREDES

Native community on the Philippines island of Mindanao.

CREE CONSTRUCTION ON DEADLY GROUND

Cree Construction may get more than it bargained for as it embarks on a major road-construction project halfway around the world in the jungles of the Philippines.

Experts on the Philippines say the road will snake through the middle of one of the world's deadliest guerrilla wars, which pits three major rebel movements against a government with a dismal human-rights record.

The highway will start in territory claimed by Muslim separatists, who kidnapped 74 people in June 1994, executing 15. It will then proceed across hundreds of kilometres of mountains and jungles where armed indigenous rebels have for decades resisted efforts by the army, settlers and loggers to encroach on their traditional lands.

At a cost of $200 million U.S., the highway will be the first link between the east and west coasts of the island of Mindanao, population 14 million (about 4 million Muslims and Natives).

A 10-person Cree Construction team is now in the Philippines doing a $500,000 feasibility study on the road.

Steven Bearksin, the company's president, said he expects a big part of the final contract for the road, which is being financed by the Philippines government and the World Bank.

But Patricio Abinales, a Filipino graduate student who is researching Mindanao at Cornell University, warned that the project may be a nightmare for the Cree company.

When Korean developers tried to open up the interior of Mindanao several years ago, they faced armed opposition. "There was an engineer kidnapped every month," Abinales said.

"I'd rather they didn't build the road at all," he added. "They're cutting forests left and right. People are trying to organize against it, but what can you do if they have guns?"

And then there's corruption. Abinales said his brother, an engineer in Mindanao, had to pay bribes to everyone from local politicians, military commanders and warlords to various rebel bands to be allowed to build a bridge on the island. Somehow, he forgot to pay off a small faction of Muslim separatists. One of his trucks was subsequently blown up.

Guy Bourcier, a Cree Construction manager supervising the project, said he is unconcerned about the human-rights problems. "In the area where we are, there are no problems of that nature."

Bourcier said local Natives are "superfavourable" to the road. He said the road will help isolated Natives get around the island more easily and promote economic development.

But Oona Paredes, a graduate student at Arizona State University researching the Philippines, said Cree Construction should expect "trouble" because the road will pass through one of the most unstable regions of the country.

"Mindanao is an island with a history of violence," said Paredes, who was born on Mindanao. "The worst-case scenario is that the lumads (Natives) start attacking the people working on the road construction, and because they are attacking these people the military will call them rebels. Then, the military can do whatever they want to these people. That's the pattern we've seen for the last 20 years."

by Alex Roslin

FILIPINO NATIVES RESIST LOGGING WITH ARMS

Like most indigenous peoples living on the Philippines island of Mindanao, the Higaonon people used to live in the coastal lowlands.

Constantly driven by developers into the forests, the Higaonon eventually made homes in the jungles and mountains of the island's interior.

But even there, their communities were threatened. In the 1960s, a logging boom saw the arrival of timber companies in their territory. The companies cut through Higaonon lands, sparking resentment and anger. Settlers flooded into the indigenous lands, building houses alongside the new logging roads.

This month, a Cree Construction team travelled to Mindanao to begin study on a plan for the first-ever paved highway across the island. Experts of the country say the road will cut through the heart of Higaonon territory.

When thje logging first got under way, some village chiefs agreed to the offers of cash payoffs, but a group of defiant Higaonon leaders led by *Datu* (chief) Mangkalasi Mandahinog opposed the logging. Mangkalasi's assassination by a hired killer in 1972 sparked the modern-day Higaonon rebellion.

Higaonon rebels proceeded to blow up logging trucks and bridges, and killed guards and other employees of the forestry companies in an effort to put an end to the development. Communist guerrillas moved into the area to lend their support to the Higaonon.

The forestry companies have fought back by hiring thugs to kill and intimidate Higaonon leaders. Assisting them is the military, itself involved in illegal logging. The army has launched massive assaults on the Higaonon, including deadly air and artillery strikes that have been criticized by human-rights organizations.

Throughout this period of "development," the 200,000 Higaonon people have faced great economic difficulties. Mindanao's poverty rate is 66 per cent, health care and education facilities are in poor shape, and corruption is rampant.

- Sources: Oona Paredes; "The Higaonons' War," article by Filipino journalist Romi M. Gatuslao

Role Model Citizens

Letter to *The Nation*:

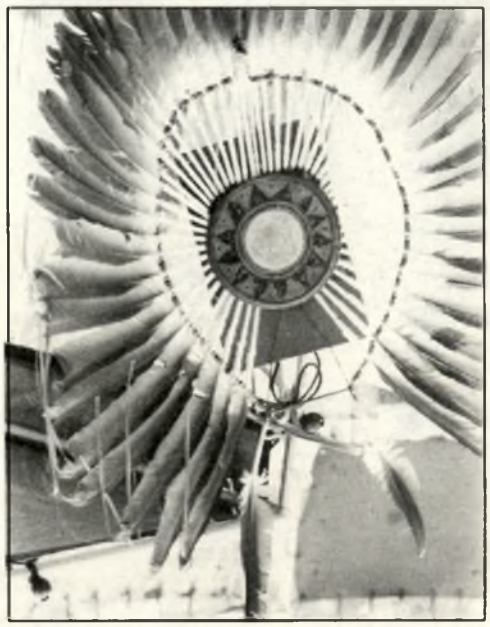
On December 18, 1995, at the Staff's Annual Christmas Party, we received a Role Model Citizen Certificate. This certificate has lifted our spirits, touched our hearts and also was a big inspiration in our lives.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Chief Abel, councillors and the people of the Ouje-Bougoumou First Nations for recognizing us as Role Model Citizens. We respectfully suggest that the Chief and council in other Cree communities consider recognizing Model Citizens because this recognition has given us a spark to continue walking on the recovery road.

We'd also like to thank the Cree Health Board for their financial support. Continue to support couples. We also give thanks to the Creator because he makes all things possible.

Recovery is not a place, a destination to be reached. It is a journey... a journey of hope and healing and peace.

In friendship,
Raymond & Judy Capissisit
Ouje-Bougoumou, Qc.



Bar in Wemindji

Letter to *The Nation*:

I would like to comment on the issue on Wemindji to open up a bar in their community. I respect the fact that the Chief of Wemindji thinks that will cut down on trips to Radisson and may decrease the road accidents of his people. But what about the near communities of Chisasibi and Eastmain?

Won't our youth be travelling back and forth to this settlement? Because my children are still using alcohol, I am worried for them. I worry enough because of trips to Radisson in the weekends.

In my opinion, I think the Chief of Wemindji should be more concerned with cutting down the use of alcohol in his community instead of trying to find a way for them to have more access to it.

While other communities are trying to find ways to help their people who are still using alcohol and drugs, I think the Chief of Wemindji is doing just the opposite.

Anonymous,
Chisasibi

13th ANNUAL CHISASIBI INVITATIONAL SENIOR HOCKEY AND BROOMBALL TOURNAMENT

Job's Memorial Gardens
Chisasibi, Quebec

February 29, March 1, 2 and 3, 1996

Entry Fees: CLASS "A" - $600.00
CLASS "B" - $500.00
BROOMBALL - $500.00

Prizes: CLASS "A" - Champions -$5000.00 + jackets
Finalists - $2500.00 + caps

CLASS "B" - Champions -$3000.00 + jackets
Finalists - $1500.00 + caps

BROOMBALL - Champions $3000.00 + jackets
Finalists - $1500.00 + caps

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at (819) 855-2878
Fax team lists to (819) 855-2875

Deadline: February 23, 1996

RACISM COMPLAINTS COST CHIBOUGAMAU ASSEMBLY

CREES SEEK UNITED FRONT ON DEVELOPMENT

How to reconcile jobs with the environment? How to get Cree control over development so the hunting and trapping way of life can be preserved?

Crees will be pondering those questions at a special assembly of the Cree Nation on forestry and other development projects, to be held in Ouje-Bougoumou Feb. 19 to 22.

"Development has occurred in the Cree Territory for the longest of times without any Cree involvement," said Jack Blacksmith, head of the Cree Forestry Working Group.

"One of the things we're hoping for from the assembly is a real discussion and a common stance of what we're going to do about development, because that's what's lacking."

Blacksmith said the assembly is a chance to look for a balance between development and the preservation of the environment.

"We don't want to block development 100 per cent in our territory," he said. "We need employment for the young. Jobs need to be created - that's a reality. But there are ways to make these things balanced and that's what we need to find."

Blacksmith said the main thing is "to remember who we are" - a hunting society dependent on the land.

The special assembly was originally going to be held in Chibougamau or Val d'Or, but organizers decided on O.J. after recent complaints of discrimination at the Chibougamau Inn (see *The Nation*, no. 5).

"Right away, everyone said Chibougamau was out. There were no second thoughts," said Blacksmith, who expressed frustration about continued discriminatory attitudes toward Crees in the town. "It's still very, very visible," he said.

Blacksmith calculated that the assembly would have injected about $30,000 into Chibougamau's economy.

And from Nemaska, another report of problems at the Chibougamau Inn. Nemaska Chief George Wapachee told *The Nation* about two Nemaska women who checked into the hotel last summer and prepaid for their rooms. After going to sleep, they got a call after midnight from the receptionist demanding that they come down and pay a $250 damage deposit.

Angered by their treatment, the women said they would change hotels and asked for a refund. At first, the hotel offered only half their money back, but after a heated exchange, agreed to a full refund. The women checked in at the Harricana Hotel, where no deposit was required.

"This is what they do to Native people at a lot of places now," said Chief Wapachee. "They seem to put everybody in one pot. We talk about living side by side. These things don't help."

Hotel owner Pierre Savage angrily denied the complaints. "We receive Crees with open arms. They will be welcomed and treated as well as anyone else. I can prove it before a judge!"

by Alex Roslin

WAR OF WORDS OVER SEPARATION

The Canadian government is finally taking an official stand supporting the partition of Quebec should it go independent.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and a top federal minister announced in late January that Cree and other territories that strongly want to stay in Canada can do so if Quebec leaves. "The basic rule is if Canada is divisible, Quebec is divisible, too," said Stéphane Dion, federal Intergovernmental Affairs Minister.

Chrétien and Dion's statements came days after the Crees released a survey that found a majority of both anglophone and francophone Quebecers agree that Crees can stay in Canada in the event of independence. Previously, Ottawa stayed silent on the issue, even though First Nations maintained that the feds have an obligation to protect their rights.

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard angrily denounced Ottawa's position as "the worst threat we ever received."

For the first time, PQ and federal politicians both openly discussed the possibility of civil war if separation should transpire.

"If you take a decision that goes against the will of the majority of Quebec's population, it will have to be militarily imposed by force," said Quebec International Affairs Minister Sylvain Simard.

HYDRO "TOO MUCH"

Hydro-Quebec has provoked the ire of the new Natural Resources Minister, Guy Chevrette, by asking for a 4.7-per-cent increase in electricity rates.

"It appears to me to be fairly high, thank you. It forces me as a minister to question Hydro-Quebec closely," said Chevrette.

"At a time when the state is bleeding white, I think that a minister who is part of a government that is responsible for its state structures must require the same rigor, the same effort from its state corporations as it requires from the government."

The rate increase would be more than twice Canada's inflation rate of 2 per

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HEALTH CANADA TALKS TO YOU

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE?

T or F? The home is a place where your child is safe from harm.

T or F? An infant carrier can safely be used as a car seat.

T or F? An antique crib passed on to you from your mother is fine to use for your child.

T or F? If a dangerous household chemical is child-resistant, it is okay to store it under the kitchen sink.

T or F? It is not a hazard to use window blinds with a cord near your child's crib or bed.

If you answered ANY of the above questions True, your child may be at risk RIGHT NOW, wherever he/she is.

KidsCare - A National Awareness Program on Child Safety related to Consumer Products, Health Canada

Children are naturally more curious than adults, which means that they are also more vulnerable to danger. It is up to us to recognize and prevent household hazards where we can. Children need our protection and care so that they can be kept safe from ALL harm.

Every year, at least a quarter of a million children are treated for injuries in Canadian hospitals, and about a thousand die from these injuries. Many of these tragic situations are brought about because parents and child-care givers are unaware of potential hazards that can easily be prevented. As well, some of these accidents occur because of the improper use or inadequate maintenance of otherwise safe products, such as car seats, cribs or toys.

This is where Health Canada's Product Safety division has a significant and *vital* role to play.

Product Safety is a division of Health Canada which aims to prevent product-related death and injury. Legislation, safety standards and consumer information are elements of this particular division's activities to ensure safer products and to promote their safe use.

Here are some important safety tips to remember when you buy and use certain consumer products for your children:

CAR SEATS: All provinces require that children be properly restrained when travelling in a motor vehicle. Make sure children's car seats have a label stating that they conform to the Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard administered by Transport Canada. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully to ensure that the car seat is properly installed. Make sure the car seat is appropriate for your child's age and weight, and use its straps and belt properly *every time* you take your child in the car. NEVER use an infant carrier as a car seat.

CRIBS: Only cribs manufactured after September, 1986 meet government safety regulations and should be used. Watch out for cribs sold at garage sales and flea markets. They must meet the requirements of the regulations. Mattresses should fit snugly on all sides of the crib. Mattresses that are too soft or worn down in any area could cause a gap where your baby's head and body could be trapped, causing the child to suffocate. Ensure that all sides are locked securely in position after placing your baby in the crib. As soon as your baby is able to stand, ensure the mattress is at its lowest postion and remove bumper pads and large toys that could serve as steps to climb out with risk of fall and injury. Never harness your baby to the crib, and avoid leaving him/her in the crib with a scarf, necklace or pacifier on a long cord. This could easily cause strangulation.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS: Household cleaners (bleaches, cleaners, polishes, etc.) are among the top household consumer products which cause injuries and deaths in young children. The hidden hazard in these chemicals is the possible swallowing of the product, and in some cases, the splashing of the product in the eyes and on the skin is also important to avoid. Lock all chemical products out of the sight and reach of children, even if they are child-resistant. Always keep household chemicals in their original containers, and do not remove the labels. If there is anything in the instructions that you don't understand, ask for help. Never let children play with chemical containers, even if sealed or empty. Teach your children what the symbols on the containers mean so that they know they are dangerous and should not be touched.

BLIND CORDS: A total of 13 deaths in Canada, including 2 in January 1996, and 69 deaths in the United States have been reported since 1981, due to children's strangulation from window blind and curtain cords. It is easy for young children to become tangled in the blind cords while climbing on furniture or cribs placed near a window. This can be prevented by tying the cords up with inexpensive devices available in hardware stores, department stores or window covering dealers. Clip them short, tie them up, but make sure they are out of children's reach.

Know what safety features to look for when you buy and use consumer products for your babies and children. The safety of Canada's children is a shared responsibility among parents, care-givers, public health workers, manufacturers, retailers and government.

By supervising your children carefully and making their surroundings safe, you can prevent unnecessary injuries and deaths.

The Product Safety Bureau of Health Canada, in consultation with industry, consumers and the medical community, has developed safety regulations and standards for numerous children's products such as those listed above.

It also provides helpful information to families and other child care givers through initiatives such as safety awareness campaigns, posters, pamphlets and videos. For more information on KidsCare, please contact the Product Safety office in Longueuil, Quebec at 1-800-561-3350.

HEALTH CANADA TALKS TO YOU IS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF HEALTH CANADA

BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

continued from page 7

cent. Last year, the utility posted a profit of $390 million.

Last year was also the first time in 28 years that the government froze hydro rates, rejecting Hydro's application for a 2-per-cent hike.

Chevrette said the cabinet will rule on Hydro's application for a rate hike in March.

Chevrette also announced that he has sent a report to cabinet from the inquiry investigating corruption in Hydro's dealings with private hydro developers.

B-BALL TOURNEY

The results are in from Eastmain's 2nd Annual Invitational Basketball Tournament, held Jan. 26 to 28...

Men's Category:
Amos (Champions, $2,500) - 70
Chisasibi Thunder Storm (Finalists, $1,500) - 46

Women's Category:
Chisasibi Cougars (Champs, $2,500) - 42
Mistissini Screamers (Finalists, $1,500) - 16

Boy's Category:
Mistissini Screaming Eagles (Champs, $1,000) - 53
Chisasibi Hurricanes (Finalists, $500) - 51

Free Throw Competition:
Mimie Neacappo - Women's ($200)
Dennis Loon - Men's ($200)

Top Scorers:
Derek House - Boy's - 35 pts.
Mimmie Neacappo - Women's - 36 pts.
Rene Coon-Come - Men's - 59 pts.

The organizing committee would like to congratulate all the winners and thank all participants and volunteers for making this event a successful one. A special thanks to Wabannutao Eyou School and all the sponsors.

THE RAID IS ON

The official team list for the 1996 Raid des Braves has now been finalized. The Cree teams are...

Duff Team de Radisson (Brian, Gary and Barry Duff)

Chisasibi Team (Brian Bearskin, Archie Moar, Reginald Sam)

Team Waswanipi (Don Saganash, Marcel Gull, Peter Longchap)

Pimpichuu Team of Mistissini (Larry MacLeod, Stanley Mianscum, Abel Mianscum)

Eastmain Team (Kenneth Cheezo, John Moses, Conrad Gilpin)

Chisasibi Skyhawks Team (Alan Sam, Hugo Rupert, Ricky Visitor)

Equipe de Nemaska (Andrew Coonishish, Redfern Cheezo, Robert Capassisit)

This year's Raid, the longest ever, goes from Feb. 10 to 17. Good luck to everyone!

David Zell

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

While on a recent trip to Kahnawake, we stopped in to see what local jeweler David Zell had to offer in the way of Native jewelry.

Zell currently fixes jewelry from all over, including Wemindji, Chisasibi and Eastmain just to name a few places. From Cree hands to Mohawk and back again through the mail.

PHOTOS: NEIL DIAMOND

Zell has been in Kahnawake for almost eight years. He brought a lot of experience with him as he worked for jewelry manufacturers selling rings and chains to places like Burkes.

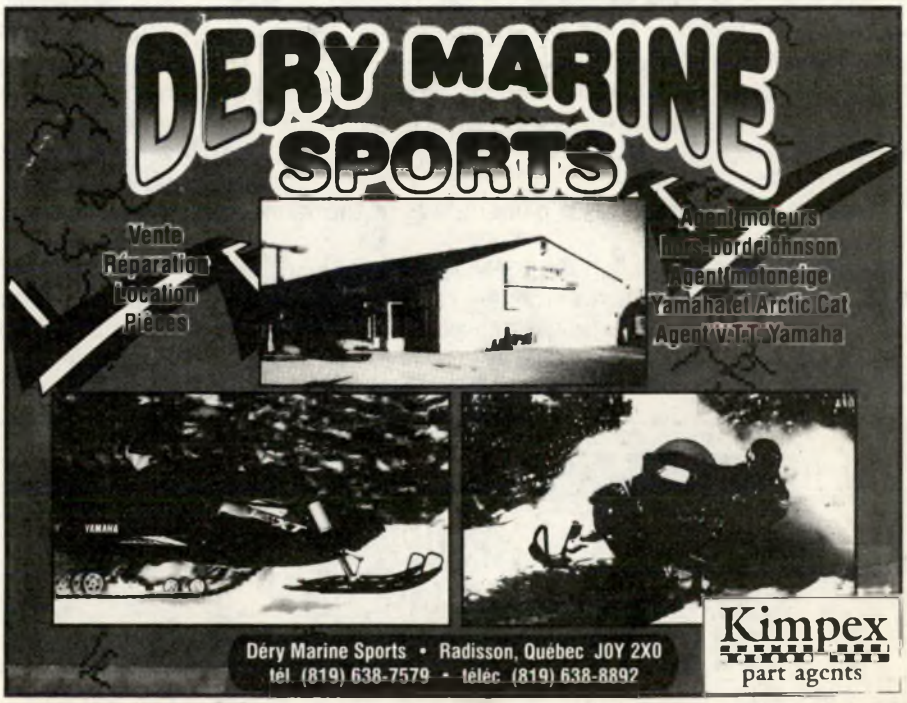
Now, Zell says he's concentrating on his services in Kahnawake. He repairs watches, clocks, rings, chains, etc. Chances are if you have something broken Zell is the man to see. His store just doesn't carry Native jewelry from the immediate area, but from all over.

"Some of this comes from as far away as southern Arizona and some is from around here. Our selection is mixed with contemporary and modern Native," he said.

"For local people there is the convenience of having something fixed right here."

Most other jewelers, according to Zell, take about three to four weeks to get around to the work. Zell is also active in community life supporting the local lacrosse team.

- William Nicholls



Interview with Glenna Matoush

By John Grande

NEIL DIAMOND

Ojibway artist Glenna Matoush works with materials, texture and colour in a way that combines the influence of traditional Native crafts sensibility with a sensitivity to light, colour and movement. Glenna's art cannot be categorized as subjective or abstract, objective or representational and embraces an environmental reality. Her work is part of a tradition in which working with materials in a creative way is inseparable from lifestyle.

Glenna lived for many years in Mistissini and her work is well-known in the Cree communities. It has been exhibited across Canada, in the United States and Europe.

When did you start getting into art?

As a young girl. My grandmother and aunt were weavers. We used black ash, porcupine quill and birchbark to weave the baskets.

Just for the community?

For the community, but also to make some extra bucks as it was tourist country. I used to go with my aunt when I was a young kid and visit cottages on the lake to sell the baskets. I remember walking along a railroad track - nothing else just trees and railroad track - and going into this house to sell. My older cousin was with me and we were invited in to eat biscuits and fresh milk. It was the first time I had been in a non-Native's house. I remember I was too afraid to eat. I was just scared of this woman. I must have been very, very young.

And your first contact with painting was in the family as well?

I saw my brothers painting. One (Bill Shilling) was 15 years older than me. He would come back from the city and bring back his paintings. Then I had another brother between us who would bring paints to the younger one who would try to paint too. So there was art always happening in the home.

Did you have any formal training in the visual arts?

I went to Montreal in the late '60's and studied at the art school at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts with Arthur Lismer, Brian Stevens and David Sorenson. From 1976 to 1980, I studied printmaking in Edmonton. That was when the Native Communications Group produced a short film on my work. I was usually known as a printmaker, more specifically an etcher, working in both intaglio and relief until 1990. I hitchhiked to Mistissini Lake from our reserve near Lake Couchiching in Ontario and lived in Northern Quebec for 20 years off and on. I first exhibited my prints in Northern Quebec as well but waited 'til my kids were a bit older before getting back into it. When I was living up north, I had a lot of respect from the community. I was the only artist there and generally in demand. I used to do portraits of people when I lived up in Mistissini Lake. I used to have an open studio for anybody in the community - children as well.

Your art is naturally abstract and symbolic. Do you take your inspiration from nature?

Nature, and dreams, books, experience, moments of realization. Painting in the natural environment inspired me a lot. Everything came into play at exactly the right time and place. I mean, the

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birch bark was in easy reach and so were the porcupine quills. And of course there is the moose and caribou hair that I use for texture. My life changed dramatically when I had the chance to paint on canvas and discovered working in collage. The textures and acrylic medium just blew my mind away. It was a discovery of artistic freedom and pure enjoyment.

Your recent paintings are really interesting. They mix abstract, figuration and collage and there's the re-emergence of portraiture in the subjects. There's one title *Alone I Am* with a man's face looking out at you, a bit haunting and reflective...

I stopped doing portraits of people when I met Kevin Kelly. He told me, why do you keep on painting portraits? You have to challenge yourself. I never did another portrait until this one a couple of weeks ago. Two weeks ago I was at a gathering of Native people. I started to do my first on Sitting Bull, with some torn two dollar bills and strips of newspaper instead of birchbark and cassette tape as in my previous paintings. Then I began painting. I felt like I was onto something new. It was sort of like leaving something behind. I was thinking about a friend and reading this book about Sitting Bull. I thought I'd do a portrait of my friend and included this poem by Sitting Bull because my friend who lives in Montreal reminds me of this wolf:

Alone in the wilderness
I roam with Much Hard
Ship in the wilderness
I roam/A wolf said this
To me. Sitting Bull

Another of your 1995 paintings *My Great-Grandfather is buried under McDonald's on Yonge St. in Toronto*, very bright and full of colour, has an image of an old Indian coat right in the centre.

I was going to call that painting *Any Souls in the Stars*. It's dedicated to my great-grandfather because I know he didn't mean to sell our land. He was Chief Yellowhead, the last traditional chief of our reserve - about two hours north of Toronto. I learned about my great-grandfather when I was a kid. I didn't know until later on that he sold our reserve land. Then we were divided up. Some went here, some went there. Divide and conquer I guess. My grandfather lived there but not his children. When I was up in Mistissini Lake in the fall of 1990, I tuned into CBC radio. An archaeologist was talking about my great-grandfather. He said that Chief Yellowhead is buried under McDonald's on Yonge St. in Toronto. I'm not sure of the exact location. That's where I got the title for my painting.

And the image of the old Indian coat?

My buddy's best buddy in Waterloo had a grandfather who used to work on the railroad. He had inherited some Native garments - leggings, a pair of slippers with real fine fine beads, a little baby's dress with bead work on it and the jacket. He gave me the baby's dress and the jacket. I was inspired to use the image of the jacket in this painting as it was given to me about the same time I began this painting about my great-grandfather.

How do you feel about the Native art shows - always Natives on their own not integrated into non-Native shows - like *New Territories, Indigena and Land, Spirit, Power*?

I would be contradicting myself if I said there should be whites and mixed because I just screwed up at Fort York in Toronto where I was to be the only Native person in it.

Do you find it strange that Native art has not been integrated into contemporary art museums as part of the permanent collections?

Whenever I go to a contemporary art museum, I ask where the Native art is and whether they will have a nook for us one day.

Your 17-foot totem *Ain't our mother earth no more* exhibited in the *New Territories* show in Montreal in 1992 and most recently at the DePianofabriek Museum in Brussels (summer 1995) was a real breakthrough.

The totem was my first abstract and my first painting using oil. I found it quite different from acrylic as a medium. That's when I started to build up colour slowly. Whatever I experience or see influences my work.

Cont'd on page 13

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NOTICE

CREE SCHOOL BOARD POST SECONDARY AND ADULT SECONDARY-LEVEL OFF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Are you thinking of continuing your education and require financial assistance?
We are now accepting applications for financial assistance for FALL Semester 1996:

The application DEADLINES for Financial Assistance are:

(a) April 01 for program/courses starting in the Fall Semester 1996, or
(b) Three (3) months in advance of any other official starting date of the program/courses.

Application Forms for Financial Assistance are Available in the Following Places:

- ▲ All Cree Communities (at the Schools)
  See Student Affairs Technicians or Guidance Counsellors
- ▲ Adult Education Centres in the Communities (Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waswanipi and Waskaganish)
- ▲ Cree School Board Post Secondary Offices in Montreal (1-800-463-7402) and Hull (1-800-567-9667)

Send applications, along with required documents to:

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

Attention: Jane L.Blacksmith
1650 de Maisonneuve West
Suite 400
Montreal, Quebec
H3H 1J6

IMPORTANT NOTE:
1. LATE Applications will not be accepted
2. Adult Secondary-Level Off-Community Program refers to vocational and secondary Level programs for adults not offered on-community.

Did you think of this piece as a totem or as a painting, as a ceremonial object?

No, it came after the actual concept. I had a big studio at Bishop's University in Lennoxville. I had a whole bunch of canvas. At first I thought I should just cut It in half or into six-foot sections, but finally I decided it should just be one continuous painting.

You just completed two commissions for the new school in Ouje-Bougoumou. Are you happy with the results?

I consider these two works the highlight of my past three years of work. I left the North 3 1/2 years ago and only went back again to work on these murals. The subjects I dealt with in these pieces relate to the interviews of 1982 when the Crees were trying to establish themselves as a separate community from Mistissini. The Chief let me go through all their archives and bring these interviews home to look over. I read them all and selected some sections for use as texts in the painting.

The vertical mural recalls your earlier totem pieces. There's a quote in the piece that reads: "When an Indian wanted to trade his pelts for a gun he had to pile his pelts to the height of the gun"...

The quote was from a respected Elder and hunter from Ouje-Bougoumou, Bally Husky, who was born in 1899 and died in 1994. I painted a tent that a person uses temporarily for travelling and the different structures we use in the bush in the work as examples of what home meant to us.

The second mural, *Merry Christmas Canada*, depicts both the seasons and the history of Ouje-Bougoumou. Along the top and bottom it reads, "From our Houses to Yours wishing The Government of Canada a Very Merry Christmas - The Ouje-Bougoumou Cree."

They published a photograph in a magazine ad of an old tent frame with the tar paper peeling off, plastic on the windows with a propane tank nearby. So I decided to use this advertisement in the painting. It was a Christmas card from the Ouje-Bougoumou Crees to the government of Canada. Before this, I had wanted the painting to be just about the seasons. There's a forest scene on the left. Then there's a scene of the propane tank used in the ad. The third is of Native fiddlers who adapted French Canadian fiddle music tunes. The final section is of the new Cree village itself. I used various collage materials for texture: volcanic sand from Cuba and birch bark, as well as photocopy.

Was the mural well-recieved?

There was only one guy who didn't like my painting. He said, "I have a French friend and we don't always bring up the Plains of Abraham." I told him my painting deals with part of the history of the community of Ouje-Bougoumou. It has to be recorded, that it's not a good story but a very sad one and we should not forget it. He didn't reply and just walked away. A couple of the white teachers up there told me the mural was fine.

How does working in a completely new Native community feel for you?

I believe that the Native community of Ouje-Bougoumou has a great future. It's very upbeat. They teach the traditional language for the first three years and tell the old stories. They're planning a Native museum up there. It won't just have art but many things. There are younger artists now coming up. I think there's more people who will be artists in Ouje-Bougoumou in the future. The community will also soon be initiating an artist in-residence program.

What are your plans for upcoming work?

My next paintings will be a series based on the first letters the Chief from the old village of Ouje-Bougoumou wrote to the government some 40 years ago. I plan to do research at the Indian Affairs Department in Ottawa before beginning them. These paintings will continue to focus on my environment and its people. The world must be made aware that the lands in Northern Quebec deserve to be saved from further exploitation and destruction.

John Grande is the author of Balance: Art and Nature *(Black Rose Books, 1995) and Montreal freelance writer.*

Cree School Board

invites you to listen to

Eeyou Chiskotamachaoun Dipajimoon

every Wednesday morning at 10:15.

This radio program can be heard in most Cree communities on the James Bay Cree Communication Society's program *Enoo Etoon.*

The program's objective is to provide information to the Cree Nation on educational issues and other important announcements relating to Cree School Board.

For more information or comments on the program, please contact Gaston Cooper at (418) 923-2764.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
FOR A
CREE CEGEP
IN CREE TERRITORY

At the present time, pursuing post-secondary education means studying outside the Cree territory. We must leave our families, friends, communities and sometimes our cultural pastimes behind. This often creates barriers to the pursuit of further education. And yet, the need for Crees to have post-secodary education becomes increasingly important.

To fully control and manage Cree organizations, we need to provide the opportunities, skills and tools for the Crees to fill these positions. A Cree CEGEP would allow the Crees to pursue post-secondary education within Cree territory and respond to their particular needs.

For these reasons the Cree School Board recently passed a resolution to form a study group. This committee will research the possibility of creating a Cree CEGEP or college-like facility in Cree territory.

THE MANDATE OF THE CREE CEGEP STUDY GROUP IS TO:

prepare a development plan for CEGEP level programs addressed to the Crees;
review all serious options for the Crees, related to a CEGEP in a Cree community;
set up a satellite of an existing CEGEP, distance education CEGEP courses, etc.;
be responsible for the following issues to be included in the development plan;

identification of potential clientele;
identification of programs to be offered;
identification of appropriate organizational and pedagogical structures;
identification of needs and estimation of capital costs;
identification and estimation of operation costs;
consultation and meetings with local populations, local interested parties and governmental agencies.

THE CREE CEGEP STUDY GROUP INCLUDES:

Clarence Tomatuk, Deputy Director General, CSB
Charles Matoush, Director of Sabtuan Adult Educationand Post-Secondary, CSB
Kathleen Wootton, Coordinator of Post-Secondary Program, CSB
Robert Ottereyes, Director of Finance and Administration, CSB
Norman Gull, Cree Consultant, CRA

Submissions of ideas and concepts relating to the creation of this CEGEP are encouraged from everyone; these submissions can come from individuals, groups, or organizations.

Through these submissions, Crees will have an opportunity to take an active part in the creation of this CEGEP. This will allow the school to reflect Cree needs, wishes, abilities and culture.

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MAY 1ST, 1996.

Please send all submissions to:

Clarence Tomatuk
Coordinator for the Cree College Study Group
P.O. Box 59
WEMINDJI (Quebec)
J0M 1L0

Telephone: (819) 978-3047
Fax: (819) 978-3107

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE
THE CREE SCHOOL BOARD
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the Nation Valentine's Day ISSUE

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SPECIAL THANKS TO: **TINA KAWAPIT, THE POETS OF THE CREE NATION AND ALL THE VOTERS FOR THE CUTEST CREE GUY!**

THIS POEM IS DEDICATED TO IDA REDNOSE,
MY COUSIN WHO I CONSIDER A SISTER:

EVER

don't pass love in silence
looking for escape on hill tops
don't pass love in secret
but tap it warmly at it's source
don't pass love at all.
Ever.

From Cita, I will always love you Cuz!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: DEANTHA EDMUNDS, CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE, NIAN MATOUSH, NEIL DIAMOND, K. CIZEK

Special Ways
TO CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

[**MEN PAY ATTENTION TOO:** your girlfriend/wife will read this too and will expect you to fulfill at least one of her Valentine's dreams!]

Men

- Wine (or flowers for dry communities) and chocolates;
- Rose petals thrown on the bed & chocolate kisses on her pillow;
- Soft, relaxing, romantic music;
- Tell your woman you think she is beautiful, and explain why (personality counts too, not just her physical attributes);
- Spend time with her and her alone - no TV, no movies, no interruptions *(Will likes to call it "cuddle time");*
- Give her a gift that shows you are thinking about her;
- Create a homemade Valentine card for your Valentine;
- Say "I'm sorry" first, even if you aren't;
- Mix freshly squeezed orange juice with champagne and serve her breakfast in bed;
- Surprise your wife/girlfriend and do the dishes ... naked! (or just do them anyway!);

Women

- Red and pink candles everywhere (here's a nice idea - use red food color and water in a nice brandy glass or small glass dish and a scented floating candle);
- Bath with scented oils and rose petals followed by a sensual massage;
- Tell your man you think he is strong, and say why (not just physically, but emotionally, too);
- Take an old photo of you both and put it in a frame along with a recent photo to see how you have grown together;
- Match up his socks;
- If he doesn't want to talk, leave him alone;
- Order him a subscription to his favorite magazine (*The Nation*, of course!);
- Laugh at his jokes;
- Surprise your husband/boyfriend and do get him that snack from the fridge... naked! *(or go into the kitchen and don't come out until he comes looking for you... hmmm);*

THE 2 OF YOU

- Get the babysitter to take the kids to her/his house to make the most of your Valentine's night - alone in silence (or not...)
- Write a personal letter of admiration/adoration to your special one and hide it under his/her pillow, or in a jacket pocket, wallet, purse, wherever it is easy to find and surprise them;
- Each write a top ten list of the favorite things you love about your mate and read them aloud to each other... in bed!
- Have a special dinner at home with scrumptious foods and one of our enticing chocolate desserts(look for our recipes);
- Take a romantic walk together, hand in hand, after dark;

Chocolate RECIPES

CHOCOLATE DESSERTS THAT ARE LOW IN FAT AND HIGH IN AFFECTION

CHOCOLATE CHESS BARS

1 (18 1/4-ounce) package 94% fat-free Betty Crocker Devil's Food cake mix
1 egg
1/2 cup light margarine, melted
1 tablespoon water
Nonstick cooking spray
1 (8-ounce) package Kraft Light Philadelphia Brand cream cheese
1 (16-ounce) box powdered sugar
3 egg whites
1 teaspoon vanilla

Nutritional information per serving: 105 calories, 26% fat (3 grams), 67% carbohydrate, 7% protein. **Yield:** 48 squares

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a large mixing bowl, combine cake mix, 1 egg, melted margarine and water. Beat by hand until well blended.

Pat batter into bottom of a 13 by 9 by 2 inch baking pan coated with non-stick cooking spray. In mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar and egg whites until mixture is smooth and creamy. Add vanilla. Pour over batter in pan.

Bake for 45 minutes or until top is golden brown. Cool and cut into squares.

AIR KISSES

3 tablespoons Dutch-process cocoa powder
1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
4 egg whites
1/2 teaspoon lemon juice
1/2 cup granulated sugar

Nutritional information per serving (4 cookies): 46 calories, 0% fat, 87% carbohydrate, 13% protein.

Preheat oven to 225 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a medium bowl, sift together the cocoa powder and confectioners' sugar. Set aside.

In a separate bowl, using an electric mixer, beat the egg whites with the lemon juice until soft peaks form. Add 3 tablespoons granulated sugar. Beat until stiff, then add remaining granulated sugar.

Gently fold in cocoa powder mixture. Place the batter in a pastry bag and pipe "kisses" 1 inch in diameter onto the baking sheet.

Bake for 2 hours or until the kisses are dry and crisp. Turn off the heat and let the cookies dry in the oven for 2 hours, or overnight if desired. Keep in an airtight container until ready to serve.

BAKED CHOCOLATE ALASKA

Cake:

Nonstick cooking spray
3/4 cup egg whites (about 5-6), room temperature
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1/2 teaspoon chocolate extract
3/4 cup cake flour, sifted
3 tablespoons unsweetened Dutch cocoa
1 quart cholesterol-free chocolate ice cream, slightly softened

Nutritional information per serving: 182 calories, 10% fat(2 grams), 73% carbohydrate, 17% protein. (10 servings)

Meringue:

5 egg whites
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/4 cup fructose (fruit sugar)
1 teaspoon vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Cut sheet of waxed paper to fit bottom of loaf pan or coat it with nonstick cooking spray.

Beat egg whites in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light. Sprinkle cream of tartar and 3 tablespoons sugar over egg whites; beat to incorporate. Continue adding sugar until all has been incorporated and egg whites are firm. Mix in salt, vanilla and chocolate extract.

Sift flour again with cocoa onto sheet of waxed paper.

Sprinkle flour-cocoa mixture, in thirds, over egg whites. Using a rubber spatula, incorporate mixture into egg whites with a deep, twisting motion. Do not overmix because you do not want to deflate whites. Spoon batter into prepared pan.

Bake in center of oven about 30 minutes or until cake springs back when gently touched.

Invert pan on top of 4 cups to cool cake. Remove when cool. Using serrated knife, slice cake in half. Serve one half at another meal.

Make sure ice cream is soft enough to mold. Place remaining half of cake on nonstick cookie sheet and mold the ice cream on top, leaving a 1/2 inch border of cake. Freeze.

When ready to serve, preheat oven to 450 degrees. To make meringue, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Sprinkle cream of tartar and fructose over whites. Continue beating until fructose is absorbed. Sprinkle vanilla over whites and continue beating until firm peaks form.

Keep cake and ice cream frozen until you are ready to top with meringue and bake. Working quickly so the ice cream does not soften, take cake from freezer and smooth meringue evenly over it with a metal spatula, sealing edges completely. Place in oven and bake 4 minutes or until edges of meringue are golden brown. Slide Baked Alaska onto serving plate, slice and serve immediately.

QUIZ: IS HE THE CREE? *For You!*

Take *The Nation* Quiz, and find out how your relationship rates!

1. Flipping through *The Nation* classifieds, you see a steamy message to your mate from his evil ex. You:
a) don't really care cause you KNOW he loves YOU and you alone
b) confront the slut and tell her to lay off your man
c) trash his skidoo and leave weepy messages on his machine (WHY Brian? WHY?...)

2. When the two of you pass a couple with a screaming baby, how do you react?
a) neither of you even notice
b) you smile at each other longingly; a family is most likely in your future
c) you smile longingly and he runs screaming all the way home

3. Your spend most of your "together time" :
a) hanging out with the regulars at Chester's Fried Chicken
b) watching All My Children munching on a big bag of Doritos while he sulks
c) reading *Rez Notes* together at home in bed and catching up on all the outside gossip

4. He charms you most with:
a) the way he wields his axe while chopping wood
b) promising to call you at 8:00, but playfully leaving you hanging by the phone for days
c) the hours he sacrifices entertaining your mother while you're out getting groceries

5. After sex, he:
a) rolls away, snoring
b) kisses you and pats you on the tush
c) goes back home to his wife and kids

6. If it ended tomorrow you would:
a) feel heartbroken for a while but would be ready to date soon enough
b) go for the guy you were flirting with on the sly
c) never get over the loss and put in a Nation classified every issue begging him to take you back

7. When you are with him, you:
a) act stupider than you really are
b) act like yourself except happier
c) pretend he's not really there or cut him up in front of his friends

8. His lovemaking skills equal that of a:
a) playful puppy
b) amoeba (Aren't they asexual?)
c) stallion

9. Which scenario best describes your first romantic encounter?
a) you woke up the night after the Val dor hockey tournament wondering, "Who is this guy in my bed?!"
b) love at first sight
c) you've been friends and flirting for years

10. If you were to stop speaking mid-sentence, he'd:
a) stare at you, blank and bewildered
b) never notice
c) smile and complete your thought

11. Which famous couple is best suited to play you in the movie version of your lives?
a) Dan and Roseanne
b) Michael and Lisa Marie
c) Bruce and Demi
d) Tarzan and Jane
e) Mr. and Mrs. Roper
f) Wayne and Garth
g) Mickey and Minnie

12. There is a MONSTER Bingo this weekend and everyone is going, including him. You:
a) do your hair and makeup like Cindy Crawford (he LUUUVS her...)
b) ask him if his cute cousin is going with him
c) go as you are and focus on winning... love AND cash!

13. When he says your name it makes you feel:
a) like nobody has ever said your name like that before
b) like a fox in heat
c) hey, that's not *my* name you *&#$%@!

14. The first person you'd call if you won the lotto:
a) your parents
b) him
c) your lawyer
d) your ex... to gloat! (hehhehheh)

15. For Valentine's day, he gets you:
a) nothing... he forgot (again, *sigh*...)
b) a subscription to *Field and Stream*... whoop dee doo
c) flowers and the new *Nation* calendar that you've been admiring since they arrived at Northern

TRUE OR FALSE?

a) You both come from similar backgrounds
b) You worry about the relationship he has with his .22
c) You like it when he takes you to the Val d'Or shopping centre, all expenses paid
d) You are the first girlfriend he hasn't cheated on
e) You prefer spending time with strangers over him
f) He purrs "anjabwa" and you answer "weesickhdad nhe"
g) You can tell him anything and he won't judge you (and vice versa)

NOW JUST ADD UP YOUR SCORE:

1. a=3 b=2 c=1	6. a=3 b=2 c=1
2. a=2 b=3 c=1	7. a=2 b=3 c=1
3. a=2 b=1 c=3	8. a=2 b=1 c=3
4. a=2 b=1 c=3	9. a=1 b=3 c=2
5. a=2 b=3 c=1	10. a=1 b=2 c=3

11. a=2 b=1 c=3 d=2 e=3 f=1 g=3
12. a=2 b=1 c=3
13. a=3 b=2 c=1
14. a=2 b=3 c=2 d=1
15. a=1 b=2 c=3

TRUE AND FALSE

a) T=2 F=1	d) T=1 F=0	g) T=2 F=1
b) T=1 F=2	e) T=1 F=2	
c) T=2 F=1	f) T=2 F=1	

QUIZ RESULTS:

0 - 21 LOSE THE LOSER! He may as well not exist. Definitely dumping material.

22 - 39 OKAY FOR NOW But pretty shallow when it comes to real communication. Enjoy it while it lasts!

40 - 58 HE'S A KEEPER! This is the Cree for you! (now, if only he'd stop clipping his toenails in bed...)

CUTEST GUY *in the* CREE NATION

The Nation is proud to present its first ever *Cutest Guy in the Cree Nation contest.* Thanks for all your votes..

1.

NAME: ROBERT AUCLAIR
COMMUNITY: WHAPMAGOOSTUI
NUMBER OF VOTES: 5

Honourable Mentions

Nemaska
Gregory A. Jolly (sr.) (x2)
Chad McKenzie
Jonathan Jolly
Christopher Blackned
Randy Wapachee
Nathan Hester
Calvin Hester
Jeremy Diamond

Waswanipi
David Jolly (sr)
Allen Cooper Junior
Clarence Trapper
Lyle Trapper
Mario Lord

Waskaganish
Franklyn Diamond
Kevin Hester

Wemindji
Fredrick Georgekish

Eastmain
Daryl Whiskeychan

Chisasibi
Francois Bobbish(x2)
Jerry Laneboy
Glenn Wadden (x2)
Clayton Visitor

OJ
Randy Bosum
Ron Simard

Barrier Lake
Emmott Paparee

Mistissini
Gordon Brien
Timothy Matoush
Claude Coon
Will Nicholls
Jodes Matoush
Jimmy Trapper (jr)
Will Jughead Longchap
Wasesquin Gunner
Johnny S. Shecapio

Moose Factory
Sterling Trapper

...my husband (of course)...

Reasons include:
'He's the most sensitivce guy I know, not afraid of expressing his feelings openly, not afraid to be in touch with his feminie side, to top it all off, has the greatest buns in the Cree Nation (stairmaster???)...'
'Most adorable little squirt....'
'We give him two thumbs up....'
'Known to many as a great hunter and friend....'
'Tall dark and handsome...'
'Would love to be stranded in a resevoir with you anytime...'
'He is fine, I mean capital F.I.N.E....'

DANIEL'S LAUGHTER

by Neil Diamond

This is a true story about a love affair that my father enjoyed telling when we were young. With a bit of creative license, and on the occasion of Valentine's Day, it goes somethin' like this...

Young Daniel lived alone with Ben and Sarah somewhere deep in the wilds, north of Waskaganish near the turn of the century. Daniel would hunt with Ben, while Sarah tended to their needs; skinning the animals they brought home, mending their frequently-torn clothing or packing their lunch for their days on Ben's hunting ground. Ben was proud to have such an industrious young woman for his own. He was prouder still of her beauty. On hot, summer days during village feasts, he would often say, so others could hear, "Pull your scarf over your face, Selhh, the sun will darken your skin."

One wet, autumn day Ben and Daniel canoed to the edge of the territory to hunt for moose. Ben killed one. He decided they would stay the night. "We will head back early tomorrow," he said.

That night Ben prepared the meal. "You will never want to eat another's meal after you have tasted mine," he bragged jokingly. Daniel smiled. It was something his father used to say. The open pot hung over the flame as they ate.

"We will leave the rest for tomorrow morning," said Ben, after he had his fill. They relaxed with a few pipefuls of tobacco and Ben's hunting tales until they fell asleep.

Ben nudged Daniel awake early the next day. "Get up, we will eat and be on our way," he said. Daniel went outside to wash in the lake. "Have you seen one of my duffels?" Ben called out from inside their teepee. "Maybe a weasel ran off with it," teased Daniel, coming back in.

"Come eat now," said Ben. Daniel sat down and took his moccasins from the pole above the fire. "Mmmmm," said Ben, stirring the thick stew. He scooped out what looked like a huge chunk of meat onto his plate. Daniel burst out laughing.

"That's where your duffel went!!!" he exclaimed. "Now, I will *never* want to eat another's meal after this." Ben chuckled and sheepishly dumped his soaked duffel on the teepee floor.

They returned to camp. Later that day, Sarah watched as they butchered the moose and Daniel turned to her asking with a smile, "Did you know Ben cooks better than you?"

He began to tell her the story of the duffel in the stew, while Ben pretended not to listen. When he finished the story, Daniel and Sarah roared with laughter. Still laughing, Sarah touched Daniel's arm.

"Stop it!" snapped Ben. He dropped his carving knife and stomped off without saying another word. They looked at each other not knowing what to say. Quietly they finished dividing up the moose.

Ben was unusually quiet at suppertime that evening and spoke only to Sarah. "Next time don't add so much salt," he said brusquely. A look of hurt passed over her face. He had never criticized her cooking before. Still angry, Ben dumped the rest of his food back in the pot and walked out. Daniel smiled at Sarah and said, "Try adding one of your moccasins next time." Sarah beamed, stifling a laugh.

Things seemed different now in the camp. There was no more polite banter in the evenings.
Daniel would steal glances at Sarah as she worked inside the teepee. She would often answer back with a shy smile that quickly faded whenever Ben happened to be nearby. Which was often. Too often for young Daniel. Now he rarely said a word to her, save for the polite "meegwehjh." Most of the time he would have Ben pass on his requests to her. Daniel longed for a private moment with her, but Ben's constant hovering discouraged it. At night while Ben snored beside Sarah, Daniel found solace in his dreams of her and him together. Without Ben.

Early one morning, after Daniel had left for the day., Ben prepared for the long trek to the post, where he would stock up on supplies and barter for his many furs. Sarah asked him to bring her back some of the fine, colourful fabric village ladies preferred for their long dresses. She knew that Ben would not have an easy time finding it. Dutifully, Ben set off south to Waskaganish, a day's walk away.

Upon his arrival at the post in the evening, Ben was questioned about the health and whereabouts of his pride and joy. "And what of the young man, Daniel?" The men of the post teased. "Watch out for him," they laughed. "He's a good provider who still hasn't found a bride." Ben pretended to ignore their taunts, but made plans to return home at first light.

Meanwhile, back at the camp, Daniel returned at twilight with a beaver. He noticed Ben's snowshoes were not there. "Maybe he shot a moose late in the day," he thought to himself. Daniel brushed the snow off his moccasins and casually threw the beaver through the teepee door and entered.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

My Daughter

by
Pauline K. Matthew

My Daughter - before you were born
I had a dream... I was feeding you
You were dressed in pink
My daughter
Then my dream came true
Oh, how happy I was
I was very thankful
My daughter
At night when its time for bed
I pray and give thanks
For having such a wonderful
and beautiful little girl like you
My darling daughter
I treasure you
I adore you
But most of all... I love you

Happy Valentine's Day.

A poem for my 2 year old Francine Tessa-Jane on Valentine's Day

Pumpkin

You are the best thing
since diced bread
in my life
day to day
and eternally
Thinking of you always
Love you tons and tons...
Twinkie

...DANIEL'S LAUGHTER

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Sarah sat at the far end of the teepee sewing. A pot of rabbit stew simmered over glowing coals by the open fire. She looked up, smiled shyly and lowered her eyes again. He headed to his side of the teepee and removed his moccasins to dry. Sarah rose and picked up a plate, filled it with the hot stew and placed it in front Daniel. He ate.

"Dee?" Sarah asked quietly, filling a cup from the steaming teapot. "Eh he," he answered.

Daniel rested against the bough-covered wall, rolled a cigarette and lit it. He watched as the smoke rose and mingled with the fire's. He looked to where Sarah was sitting. The light from the dying fire cast a soft warm light on her face. "God, she's beautiful," he thought. Sarah sensed his eyes on her and looked up slowly. He looked away abruptly and flicked his cigarette into the fire. Sarah smiled. Daniel unrolled his bearskin mat and crawled under his goosedown blanket. He lay awake thinking that Ben must have decided to spend the night guarding his kill. He would leave early the next day to help him haul it back. While Daniel slept, Sarah skinned the beaver and quietly bundled her most treasured possessions.

Daniel awoke the next morning before sunrise to find Sarah busy packing his belongings and placing them near the door. The fire was nearly out.

"What are you doing? " he asked confused.

"We're leaving," she said. Daniel's mind started to spin. Was she telling him they were running away together? To leave Ben? Where was he? Daniel looked at her. Her eyes pleaded for a decision.

Daniel stared back.

"Let's go," he said.

Ben did not see smoke late that afternoon when he reached the shore opposite his camp. His pace quickened. Closer now, he saw the exposed teepee poles. He cursed and ran, grabbing only his rifle and Sarah's gift. He stopped at the teepee, and saw a wide line and two snowshoe tracks, barely visible, heading north. Ben followed. In the middle of a huge lake he came upon a crudely fashioned sun dial. Daniel was taunting him. He had marked the time they passed through there. Hours before. Ben went on. The sun set. He ran under the stars and the dim eerie light of the dancing ghosts.

Exhausted, he came upon a spot where they had rested. They had made a fire and a lean-to with a soft bed of boughs. Too tired to go on, Ben used the last of his strength to build a fire. He collapsed into the comfort of the shelter. He lay barely awake staring at the flames. "Daniel," he muttered angrily and fell into a deep sleep.

The snow began to fall.

Cold and shivering Ben awoke to a crisp, bright dawn. The fire was out.

The tracks were gone.

The End

November 22, 1995

The Chief, Band Council and Trappers of Waswanipi

Gentlemen:

The Cree Trappers' Association was set up to deal specifically with the traditional Rights of the Cree People in regard to hunting, fishing and trapping issues.

We have a unique position in that the position of the Cree People in regard to these activities is a fragile one and relates directly to the issue of development within Cree Territory and the way in which we carry on our activities in a sustainable and traditional way.

We look to Section 24 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement as our guide, as well as the traditions, customs and Cree Law that support our culture and heritage related to the Land and its Wildlife.

We have recently been made aware of proposed agreements to be entered into between various tallymen in the Waswanipi Traditional Territory, as well as a related agreement between Domtar Inc. and the Waswanipi Band Council with respect to the creation of a "mutual cooperation fund."

Our role is not to impose ourselves upon communities when local decisions have to be taken, but in this unique case, it is absolutely crucial that we relay to you our concerns and comments with respect to what is taking place in Waswanipi.

We have consulted legal counsel in regard to the impacts of these agreements and advice has been useful in directing our thoughts and looking at the consequences of the negotiations under way.

From a traditional, political and legal point of view, there are numerous problems which we feel are related to these agreements and we have no choice but to speak to you directly in this regard.

The following is the list of points which we ask you to consider very carefully in the context of the benefit of the whole community *[the following section of the letter makes reference to the individual compensation agreements that Waswanipi trappers are being offered by Domtar Inc. -Ed.]*:

1. There is a concern with respect to whether the Rights under the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreeement are collective or individual Rights. Can any individual invoke those Rights to the exclusion of the community in general and can such Rights be given away, sold or otherwise compromised?

We have always had great respect for our tallymen and they are referred to in Section 24 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement, but the issue remains that the Rights under the Agreement are for the benefit of not only the collectivity of the individual community, but also other communities which may be affected by anything that happens in one part of a territory.

To make the point a very simple one, we have great doubts as to whether or not a tallyman can in fact allow Cree Traditional Territory and Wildlife to be affected of his own volition and without the input of both his community and those surrounding him.

The Cree People have always acted on a collective basis and the precedent that is being set with these agreements now may take that away from the Cree Nation as a whole and allow them to be dealt with as individuals.

We think there are strong legal concerns with respect to these agreements, both under Cree Law and that relating to the Agreement, that may invalidate what the forestry companies are negotiating at this time.

The Cree People have always acted on a collective basis and the precedent that is being set with these agreements now may take that away from the Cree Nation as a whole and allow them to be dealt with as individuals.

2. The agreement itself, to the extent that it could be considered as being valid, directly affects Cree Rights and positions, notwithstanding what is contained in the first "whereas" clause.

The "whereas" clauses, and particularly the fifth clause, provide for the "involvement of the trappers into the decision-making process," but this is <u>not</u> in fact what is contained in the agreement.

The last "whereas" clause is particularly important in that it bases the whole question about whether or not either of the Band, the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) or other communities have to be involved in this agreement for it to be valid.

3. Section 2 of the agreement raises the whole question of compensation to a trapper with respect to forestry resources. There is no question but that the Cree political and legal position now is that there should be resource and revenue sharing in regard to the extraction of natural resources, <u>but this should take place in any case</u>, whether there is an agreement or not.

We have felt at our annual general assembly that the position of the Cree trappers was that sustainable traditional activities have to be carried out, perhaps parallel to forestry and other activities, and that compensation should be payable to us without the necessity of the signing of agreements of this type.

Con't on next page

Section 3 of the agreement is simply another form of compensation and, once again, it raises the question as to whom this compensation should go to, the value of it and who can approve it.

The remedial works provided for in this Section raise the whole question of the necessity of having an economic and social impact assessment carried out with respect to all forestry activities. That is what should take place and the remedial works to be done by the Company should be done in any case without any document being signed.

4. Section 6 of the agreement is the crucial part - Consultation with the Trapper.

This whole Section provides only for consultation to take place with respect to a large number of issues which are crucial to the trappers' livelihood and are listed in Paragraph c).

THE CRUCIAL ISSUE IS THAT WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS "CONSULTATION," WHICH MEANS, AS IT HAS IN THE PAST, SIMPLY MEETING WITH THE TRAPPERS, SENDING DOCUMENTS OR CARRYING OUT OTHER ACTIVITIES, BUT NEVER HAVING THE TRAPPERS DECIDE ON WHAT IS TO TAKE PLACE.

At the present time, the whole question of the sustainability of the forests, sacred sites, wildlife preservation, reforestation and other matters is an issue which trappers should be able to decide - not simply be consulted on.

The areas of cutting are imposed from the outside, wildlife management and access to the Territory are decided by others, and all of the areas of Land which are sacred and special to us have been, can be and can continue to be ignored by Government.

Promises such as "encouraging" the participation of the trappers in the planning of forestry operations have in the past turned out to be false promises which have never been respected by forestry companies, other development entities and particularly Quebec and Canada.

5. Paragraph 7 is crucial, because of the way in which it is drafted. The real issue is that although there appears to be protection to some essential ecological aspects of the trapline, the real issue is that at this point, the forestry industry is so anxious to cut timber that we suggest you carefully consider the overall impact that this may have upon the future of Waswanipi traditional activities. The greed of the companies and their need for revenue can easily destroy a trapline and it would be a shame if trappers or the community were used as a pawn in this process.

6. In regard to employment opportunities in Section 9, we have lived with the words "favour" and "encourage" in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and I have seen over the last 20 years that they have not been effective. There must be concrete undertakings in detail in order to have obligations of this sort be effective, and this is not the case in this agreement.

7. As a general comment with respect to this overall agreement, it forsakes the general principles that we, as the Cree Trappers' Association, have confirmed in the annual general assembly resolutions and the Crees in general have supported as a Nation.

It allows basically for the disposition of "Rights," and we have stated before the People of Quebec, of Canada and before the World that these Rights are inherent and cannot be given away. This type of agreement, even if it is considered invalid as we believe, sends the exact opposite signal to those around us and we cannot let this take place.

...we have stated before the People of Quebec, of Canada and before the World that these Rights are inherent and cannot be given away. This type of agreement, even if it is considered invalid as we believe, sends the exact opposite signal to those around us and we cannot let this take place.

8. With respect to the shorter agreement relating to the "mutual cooperation fund," this is once again based on a principle which must be looked at carefully by the trappers, the Council and the community in general [*the mutual cooperation fund deal was signed by the Chief and Domtar on Dec. 12 -Ed.*]

There are, once again, Cree Rights issues involved and the overall questions about the selling of a Cree heritage and the impacts on the Rights of the Cree People.

9. Your neighbouring communities and your fellow trappers in those communities will be affected by this agreement, both as a precedent and as a valuation of the worth of their traplines. And a great deal of the efforts we have made in the past to establish principles with respect to the preservation of our tradition, culture, land and wildlife will be put in jeopardy.

In conclusion, the agreements before you are ones which have long-ranging and wide implications with respect to the Cree Nation as a whole and we strongly suggest that they be reviewed in great detail by the community, that there be sophisticated legal input in regard to the impacts of the agreement themselves and that the political and practical implications of what these agreements mean must be considered in great depth.

The Eeyou Astchee Commission prepared a report recently which made it clear that our role and mandate as a Nation related to the way in which we can live in concert with and support of our environment, our Land and our Wildlife.

On our reading of what the forestry companies are negotiating with you at this time, these will be put in peril.

We ask you to reconsider this approach and take the time to work with us in ensuring that Cree Rights are protected in the future.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,

Edward Gilpin Jr.
President, Cree Trappers' Association

Interview with ABEL KITCHEN

By Alex Roslin

Alex Roslin: You have followed the different questions people have raised over forestry in Waswanipi for a long time - the sawmill, clearcutting, the new road proposed by Domtar. What are your thoughts on these problems?

Abel Kitchen: Many years ago when I was chief, we did a lot of these things, we started them. I think we were trying to create some work. Those were some of the very simple reasons we had when we started these projects. The issue of forestry started coming up when we realized that when you start to cut you are going to impact people and you are going to impact the resources that people are using as the cuts become greater.

Economically, I think what is happening in Waswanapi with regards to forestry and the sawmill is something that is very much needed when you look at the kind of unemployment which existed on these reserves. You need some kind of employment and I don't have any problems when you look at projects in that sense.

I guess the only problem I have with regards to what is happening in forestry is maybe the fragmented approach we have in trying to solve the problem. We're doing it on a trapline-by-trapline basis which really does not give a strong position for the Native people. You're settling a long-term problem with very short-term solutions. Money does not last very long. Even the benefits Native people are looking at don't last long. So the solutions are very short-term as far as I'm concerned.

With respect to the sawmill, the major concern I have in following that project as it has proceeded is maybe the consultation part. The comment people make to me is that they would like to be more involved in what's going on in some of these decisions. I think in a way they are right because they are the ones - the trappers themselves and the people themselves - who are going to have to live with this problem over a long period of time.

A long time ago, I was convinced personally that whatever you do in forestry, there will be some impacts personally and on the resources you depend on as a user of the forest. But I think if proper information and consultation is done, people can make an informed decision. I think in Waswanipi we didn't go that far in terms of the consultations.

Cont'd on page 27

...whatever you do in forestry, there will be some impacts personally and on the resources you depend on as a user of the forest. But I think if proper information and consultation is done, people can make an informed decision.

Special General Assembly: Natural Resource Development in Eeyou Astchee

February 19-22, 1996
Ouje-Bougoumou

It is urgent that the Cree Nation set a policy on how development occurs in Eeyou Astchee. The time has come for the Cree Nation to seize the agenda on natural resource development. Inform your community delegates of your concerns, suggestions and ideas. Our future depends on it!

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Grand Conseil des Cris (du Québec)

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Interview with...

Do you think there should have been a referendum?

You know people keep talking about another referendum. I think people should be given that option. I know when I was chief, we did some votes on other projects, but I think what is being talked about here is a new project, something different, and I think people should be given a chance to vote on that. It's something totally new and in the end the band council should be guided, if you wish, by the wishes of the majority of the people.

Has it been that way so far?

I think the band council is probably looking at it in terms of jobs and I think they're trying to do the best they can, but I think what has been lost is maybe they haven't spent enough time talking to people. People are feeling the impacts right now, and I think what they want to do is talk and really air out these concerns. I think if that kind of process takes place, people would agree to accept a project like that.

I'm aware of a study that was done on the environmental impact of the sawmill. The thing about that study is we've done it in the way they do it for all forestry projects. We probably tend to look at it in the terms of all the trees that can be cut and maybe not enough time was spent on some of the human and social aspects related to forestry. I think you cannot do an environmental assessment with respect to Native forestry development without really doing extensive consultation and information sessions with the people.

I think the band council is probably looking at it in terms of jobs and I think they're trying to do the best they can, but I think what has been lost is maybe they haven't spent enough time talking to people.

You mentioned compensation agreements. As you know, Chief Kitchen just signed one with Domtar. Are you comfortable with that kind of an agreeement?

The one problem I have is the approach of a trapline-by-trapline basis. What happens is there is money given out to individuals and some benefits in terms of cabins, in terms of four-wheelers. I heard there were even cars being given out. Those for me are temporary, and what happens is when you do a thing like that, you really don't have a policy on how to deal with the devastation that is happening up there. These, like I say, are really short-term benefits on a long-term problem.

You're almost taking 15 years of a man's livelihood. And when you start evaluating the worth of these 15 years, the kinds of things the government or forestry companies are offering are peanuts compared to what these people are giving up.

I always think of forestry, the way it happens, the kind of clearing they do. You're almost taking 15 years of a man's livelihood. And when you start evaluating the worth of these 15 years, the kinds of things the government or forestry companies are offering are peanuts compared to what these people are giving up. On that basis they are giving up very, very much for very little gain. You cannot create a policy with that kind of approach. Socially, also, what it has done is it has created problems even among family members, because when you give money to one family member, everybody of course expects some kind of share, and I know it has caused friction among individuals within family groups because of this particular approach.

I'm wondering if you also think forestry should be dealt with just by Waswanipi separately, or do you think there is a need for the entire Cree Nation to get together and fight for something better, like on the Great Whale project?

I think there are some particular band-by-band issues that need to be dealth with. I've always favoured the collective approach, you know, the Cree Nation itself dealing with all of these forestry companies. That in itself says something. You have a common position and you're talking for everybody. I've always favoured that because it gave you political strength and I think it dealt with the issue on a more comprehensive basis that, in itself, will result in more policy changes in terms of how forestry is carried out in Native lands.

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AIR CREEBEC

Hockey players depend on support of friends and family

This article was written by the Chisasibi Minor Hockey and Broomball Committee, a group of parents and volunteers who try to help minor atheletes achieve their goals both inside and outside the community.

There's a lot of Chisasibi kids out there working hard to fufill their hockey dreams. The road for our children is not without pitfalls and all kinds of other obstacles. Our kids need to develop a strong sense of "survival" in the competitive sports world, where only 1 per cent of all Canadian minor league hockey players will eventually make it to the NHL.

But all our kids have the right to dream about it. Like they say, "If you have it in you to dream, you have it in you to succeed."

So our committee would like to make special mention of our local young atheletes who are trying hard somewhere in the "south" to fufill their goals.

Unfortunately, the Cree Nation cannot YET provide for these young atheletes at the level of competition they are working at. So they have to leave home... They have to move to cities, sometimes by themselves, sometimes with their parents.

And often our boys have to deal with "cultural" and "language barriers," homesickness and outright racism, just to name a few of the obstacles. Our kids have the talent, but they face a harder road than other youngsters. That makes their successes all the more important.

A new rising star is Isaac Swallow, 18, who was recently drafted to the Junior "A" Rouyn Capitals. Isaac was spotted by the Capitals while playing in the Val d'Or tournament. When they saw him play, they drafted him on the spot.

Isaac has the perfect physique for the game. He's six feet tall and a talented player. But he was shy and not at his top level of physical fitness. So our committee raised funds to buy him a physical training program. The Rouyn team noticed a big improvement and now Isaac is a big contender on the team.

His brother, George Swallow, 17, is another story. Everyone at home knew he was good. But at the recent Tourney in Chisasibi over the holidays, George didn't play that well. And after one of the games, some small boys came up to him and said how disappointed they were. Those young kids really looked up to him and were sad he didn't shine the way they knew he could.

Well, Geroge was really affected by that. He was determined not to let the kids down. He was determined to get back in shape. So every day, he trained himself. All alone, running every day. And then out of the blue the Rouyn "A" team called. They had room for one more player. George was flown down by the committee to try out for the last spot. He made the cut.

It's like a dream for George and Isaac. And it wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for people like Clarence and Barbara Snowboy. The Snowboys, living in Rouyn while Clarence goes to university, took the two boys in. They drive them everywhere, help look for schools, talk with their coach and give them all the support of a Cree family environment. And they've got five kids of their own!

In other news... "Junior Snowboy," the son of Clarence and Barbara, is playing in the MAGH hockey program (a development program for mosquito hockey players). His older brother Roland, 12, is also playing for a "Class B" pee-wee team.

In North Bay, Ontario, Louie House, 17, is living with a family from Chisasibi, pursuing his education at Obijouwan School and playing for a Midget AA team.

In Timmins, Wayne Bobbish started his season in a pee-wee AA team, but recently told his parents that he wanted to change teams because the heavy competitive pressure of his current team is killing his joy of the game.

In Kanata, near Ottawa, our 10 year-old Sean Langer-Sam is going to school, living with his father, while his mother helps support the family all the way from Chisasibi. Sean is playing for the atom AA Kanata Blazers and shows strong defensive skills and character.

Eric Snowboy and Matthew Sam, after a long journey of tryouts, made the "Quebec First Nations pee-wee Hockey Team," made up of Native players from Chisasibi, Mistissini, Waswanipi, Kahnawake and Pointe Bleue. After just practising together one week, the team made it to the finals in a recent class BB tourney in Jonquiere.

The team lost their first game 5-0, but then went on to win all of their games until the finals where they had to concede victory to the Nationals of La Baie in a 4-1 score.

The boys had to witness unnecessary discrimination and misconduct during the finals, which might have affected their play. But that's the reality they have to face, so hopefully we'll think of ways to make them better prepared for that kind of thing next time.

We believe that every child has the right to a dream! And that's why we want to thank the parents, friends and guardian angels of our kids. These generous and dedicated Cree families who help our kids are a big asset, especially when they have to adapt to city life. A child can overcome any obstacles as long as they know who they are and have the support of those around them.

At the end of the season, some will stay on with their teams, while others will come home for a variety of reasons. But we have to keep in perspective one important thing. No matter the size of a child's accomplishment, as long as he/she keeps busy trying to achieve their dream, they will be a winner. They will be happy. And they will be good at whatever they chose to do in life.

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and

ARTISTIC CONTEST FOR THE COVER OF THE 1996 ANNUAL REPORT.

PRIZE: $500.00
DEADLINE: March 15, 1996

All submissions should be sent to:
Annual Report Contest
CREECO Inc.
203, Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Qc
G0W 3C0

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Wishing all the best to Glen, Nina and Robyn on the birth of their bundle of joy, "Gina Yaushtin Madison". Hugs and kisses. Luv, aunties Virg and Marg.

Congratulations to Leeann and Blair on the birth of their second little boy, Tristan. Wishing you the best from across the miles. Gail, Chris and Taryn. P.S. Happy birthday Leeann!

Congratulations to Ruth and Neil for the birth of their daughter Jasmine Amber, born on December 6, 1995. I wish you the best in life, take good care of each other. By the way, Ruth, Don't get married without me!!! Miss you all very much... Love always, Emma and Wayne.

Congratulations to Darryl Steven Hester and Deborah Cheezo on the birth of their baby girl. born in Dec., 96 (in Val d' Or) From your best friend in Nemaska. Take good care of yourselves.

Congratulations to Spot on the birth of her 17 puppies. From Muffin.

101-BIRTHDAYS

We want to wish a happy birthday to our mother Doris A. Bobbish on Feb. 13. we miss you a lot. Hope to see you soon Mom. Have a wonderful birthday. Love always, your two kids in Timmins, Christina and Wayne. xoxoxo.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my brother Wayne Bobbish on Jan. 26 and to my best friend Claudia Kanatewat on Feb. 2. Hope you guys will have fun on your birthdays. From Christina S. (Timmins)

A very special birthday wish going oput to our mother Rose Dixon Gilpin on Feb. 27. Happy birthday mom, we love you very much. From your daughters Lorraine, Melanie, Charlotte, your son Patrick and your precious grandson Terrence.

We want to wish a happy birthday to our sweet adorable granddaughter Teesa Loon Trapper on Feb. 10 and also to our daughter Katherina, Feb. 17. Happy birthday to both of you and many more to come. Fr. grandma, Grandpa/ Mom and Dad. Mist.

Happy birthday to my wonderful loving husband John on Feb. 13/96. Wishing you happiness on your day and many more to come. God bless you. Love always, Jane.

We would like to wish a special birthday to our daddy on Feb. 13/96. Thanks for being there for us. We love you very much. Romeo, Tanya and Judith Coon.

46 years ago a little boy was born by the name of John Shecapio Blacksmith from Dore Lake on February 7. So happy birthday dad! Oh! How old are you, those grays are starting to show! Fr. Annette, Cara, Mathias and Valentina. We love you! From Ouje-bougoumou.

Walk with me hand in hand, walk with me through the sand, even when we are old and slow, walk with me. Happy birthday to my husband John Shecapio B/Smith. I promise I won't tell your age. Let them guess. Love you. your wife, Mary. Fr. Oujay.

Happy birthday to Mary Ann Bosum who is now from Ouje-Bougoumou! I won't ask how old you'll be on February 9. cuz I know you're still young! Don't party too much! From Annette of Ouje-Bougoumou.

I would like to wish a happy belated birthday to my one and only brother I have Freddie Wapachee (In Nemaska) Jan. 15, 96. Wishing you all the best of luck. Don't work too hard. Don't think too much or you gonna go crazy. With love, your oldest sister in Nemaska. M,J,W (Sr) (oxoxo)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our daddy Mervin Cheezo on Feb. 28. We love you. From your children Mervina and Marvin Cheezo.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to a wonderful mom and grandma Philomene Coonishish on Feb. 18, 96. Hope your day will be special and the whole year around! Love, your daughter Mona and your grandson Adrian. xoxoxo. (Ojay)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to George Matowahom on Jan. 31 and John Moses on Feb. 19. Harlan Moses on Feb. 8, Roselyn Moses on Feb. 27. From Chisasibi. Dorothy, Daniel and family.

We want to wish a happy birthday to Gordon Neacappo on Feb. 11 and to Melina on Feb. 2 and many more to come. From Phyllis and Patricia.

Birthday greetings to our cousins, Shayna on Feb. 6 and Anita the same day as her sister's. Both of you are lucky to have the same birthdate. Both of you have fun on Feb. 6 Happy birthday. Love always, Angelina, Maggie and Carla (Wemindji)

I would like to wish my nephew a happy birthday! To Shannon Nakogee on January 31, 96. Hope you'll have a great one this year. Remember we love you always!

CLASSIFIEDS

the Nation's CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

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From Judy and Nicole Nakogee.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to Peter Bosum on February 14, 96 and also happy Valentine's Day to you. Lucky you, your birthday's on Valentine's Day. Well, hope you have a happy birthday. From guess who (Wasw)

A belated birthday to my sister Rachel E. Simard (Jan. 8) Hope you enjoyed you birthday here in Wask. Don't forget to go to Chateau 80 for me next week. Don't bother with Chateau Louis. Duuuuhhh! Angela E. (Wask).

I would like to wish my mom a happy birthday on Feb. 2, 96. Love always, your daughter Angelina (Wem.)

We would like to send birthday greetings to three special people, Rene Salt on Feb. 17, Katherine on Feb. 19 and Maureen on Feb. 22. Happy birthday and many more to come. P.S. Thanks for everything you've done for us. Love always, Larry, Helen, JR, Josh.

Happy belated birthday to my sis Rachel Etapp, Jan. 8. I know you feel old but 21 isn't so bad. Sorry I couldn't get you anything but I can give you $20 to celebrate when you go to Montreal. Tanya Blackned. Waskaganish.

Hi Joe. Happy birthday to you on Feb. 13 or is it on the 14th, can't re-

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Coming On CBC TV
Maamuitaau

February 24 and 25
Maamuitaau talks with Tim Whiskeychan, a Cree artist from Waskaganish. From the time he was a youngster, Tim had a passion for expressing himself through painting. As he grew, so did his artistic abilities. Also, on **Maamuitaau Chis'chaayihtamoon** we look at the community wellness centre in Waskaganish where people find help with drug, alcohol and social problems.

March 2 and 3
Maamuitaau presents "School In The Bush." This 1972 National Film Board production portrays one family's attempts to teach their southern educated children Cree values and culture by sharing day-to-day life experiences in the bush. **Maamuitaau** takes an historical look at such a family during the 1970's. Also, on **Maamuitaau Chis'chaayihtamoon** we feature a special educational program taught to Cree children in their language and culture today in Waskaganish.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Saturdays	06:28	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

CBC North

VACANT POSITION:
WASKAGANISH

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

POSTING PERIOD: February 6 to February 20,1996
STATUS: Permanent full-time
UNIT: Community Health
POSITION NUMBER: 6575-3465-1201
POSTING NO: 95-0035B
HRS/WEEK: 35
SERVICE: Health Services - Coastal CLSC
PLACE OF WORK: Waskaganish

DUTIES:
A CHR is a Health Educator for groups and individual people of all ages.
A CHR leads workshops, participates in programs, teaches in the school, and provides information on the radio.
The objective of this health education is to allow everybody to be in their best state of health (prevention and health promotion).
CHR's are involved in community health programs and clinics such as: Mother and Child Health, Diabetes, Dental Health, Nutrition, Bush Kit, Mercury and AIDS prevention.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS:
Enjoy helping people, so they can be in their best state of health.
Enjoy speaking and interacting with groups of people (school, youth and adults) about health.
Ability to plan workshops and presentations.
Be a respected, reliable and mature community member.
Secondary V education or equivalent (CEGEP would be and asset).
Willing to learn about health promotion.
Able to travel and participate in mandatory training.
Bilingual: Cree and English or French.

The persons interested in this position are asked to forward their resume within the prescribed deadline to:
Annie Bobbish,
Personnel Management Consultant.
Tel: (819) 855-2844
Fax: (819) 855-2098

Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James
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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

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member. Anyways I hope you enjoy your day as much as blowing out every single candle. I wonder how long that will take eh? Fr. Me way up here. Bye.

I would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to my sweet little niece Teesa Ashley Loon Trapper on Feb. 10, 96 and to my one and only sister Katherina Jane Trapper on Feb. 17, 96. Best wishes to the both of you and many more to come. I love you both so much.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our cuz Krisanne Stephanie on Feb. 22. Hope you have a very wonderful b-day and lots of presents from Granny. Once again Happy birthdays. Hugs and pinches from Jordina and Savannah (Wem)

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my loving and caring husband Mervin Cheezo on Feb. 28. With love always, your wife Beverley.

Happy b-day to a very special sister Emma on Jan. 15th. There are very few people like you and I'm glad that we are sisters and that I could call you my best friend. Hope to come and visit you really soon. Love, LMB and family.

Birthday greetings going out to my grandmother Jean Edwards on Feb. 18, 96. And also to my cousin Jeremiah Longchap on Feb. 18, 96 too. Have fun on your birthdays you two. Best wishes and many more to come. Jennifer.

Birthday wishes to Amy Mattawashish-Dec. 1st, Patricia-Jan. 1st, Louise-Jan. 6th, Ocean-Jan. 12th, Paula-Jan. 13th, Courtney-Jan. 19th and top a wonderful guy in Waswanipi, Leonard Mattawashish-Jan. 29th. Hope all of you enjoy your b-days without me!!! Best wishes from Emma in North Bay.

I would like to send birthday greetings to Daniel Mattawashish- February 7th-Remember your dream!, David Matt- February 12th-Take a day off, you deserve it!, Myra Jolly-February 13th-joy your day! Lee Roy Pet- February 18th- Don't lie about your age! Jonathan Jolly- February 21st- Stay away from the girls! **Happy birthday** and many more to come. Love, Emma.

I would like to wish a b-lated b-day to my friend, sister-in-law Madeline on Jan. 18. Hope you had a good time on your b-day and may all your wishes come true. From Mary, Rene, Renee and Amelia and Tyrone. P.S. Call us.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Christine on Feb. 2. From your family, Kakabats (Wem.)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Emily Weapenicappo on Feb. 1 in Eastmain. From Victor, Irene, Timmy, Leonard and Waseskun.

This birthday wish is going out to our great grandmother Emily Weapenicappo. We love you very much from Timmy, Leonard and Waseskun and also we would like to wish a happy birthday to our granny Kathleen on Jan. 27.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to a very special person in my life. He will be celebrating his birthday on February 11. I thank God for the miracle of you and for giving me the best since you've stopped drinking 3 years ago. I love you and will always be the love of my life. Love always, your wife.

To our dad, Johnny Tomatuk. Have a wonderful birthday on February 11 and many many healthy years to come. We love you very much Dad. Though there are times we get on your nerves for being bad, it doesn't mean we don't care because we do. We hope we get to watch you celebrate your sober birthdays for a long long time. Love, Shawna, Sheldon, Sherry-Ann and Katherine.

Belated birthday greetings going out to special kids, Tyrone Dixon on Dec. 9 and Amelia Dixon on dec. 14. We hope all your wishes come true. We love you both so dearly with all our hearts. From your uncles Varley and Javex Mianscum from Ouje-Bougoumou.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our friend Lucy Salt on Feb. 2. She will be celebrating her birthday in Waskaganish. Have fun and take care of yourself. From your friends C.M. and J.E.

I wanna wish happy birthday to my mother Annie Eagle on February 17, 1996. I hope your day will be as special as you are and thank you for your love, caring and support. I miss you so much. Love always, Janie E.

Don't think of it as getting older to: Rachel J. E. Simard. Just think of it as going on ahead to check things out for the rest of us! Happy belated 21st birthday! on Jan. 8, 96. In friendship, Mona and Adrian Coonishish and Francis Shecapio. Ouje-Bougoumou.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Kevin Saganash who will be 9 on April 7, 96 and also to David Saganash Jr. who will be 2 on Feb. 25, 96. And we wish you both have fun and enjoy your special day and we love you both. From Mom and

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friends Laura and Jessica.

Wishing a happy 5th birthday to our nephew Johnny Awashish Jr. on Feb. 9, 1996. Love always, Helen, Larry Jr., Joshua Salt.

A birthday wish to Luci Salt on Feb. 17 and always you are wished a life filled with happiness and personal fulfillment. With love always, Pamela, Bruce, Lori and Curtis.

Hey! twins your birthday is coming up. So what are the plans this year! Eh! Michael and Elaine Dixon wishing you both a happy birthday on Feb. 17, 96 and hope all your dreams and wishes come true. Aunt Mona and cuz Adrian.

Birthday greetings going out to Shayna Lynn who will be turning four on Feb. 6. Happy birthday! With love from, Elizabeth, Gail and boys.

102-WEDDINGS

Congratulations to my best friend, Agnes and her new husband Glenn for tying the knot on Jan. 21, 1996. may the good lord bless your marriage. May his blessings be as endless as the love you share for one another. With love from Seanna and Wayne.

103- ANNIVERSARIES

Happy anniversary to a special couple, Leonard and Emily Brien on Jan. 28. Whatever comes your way, it's that special love that you have for each other that will prevail. God bless you both and Alex. xxoo. Love, John, Laurie and Victor.

300-PERSONALS

I would like to say hi to Lena C. in Waswanipi. Remember, too much love will kill you. From your friends in Mistissini, Que. P.S. Remember we will always love you.

Just want to say hi to Mary Jane (Nem) I'll be in the bush for goose break. hope to hear from you. My ears will be wide open. From Johnny Fever.

I would like to say hi to Shawn Neeposh from Mistissini. I just want you to know that I still care about you and I miss you a lot. These feelings I got for you will never end. I hope I will see you again someday. From Guess Who!!

I want to say hi to Timothy Matoush B.T.R. in Mistissini. Ever since U went back I missed your cute face and your sexy smile. Please, please come back to me in E.M. From your secret admirer.

Maggie Bugden (Mom). I will always treasure the love that you have shown me and taught me. My love for you grows stronger everyday of my life. Thank you for all you have given me. I love you...Cita.

I would like to say hi to my friends in Waskaganish, HJS, SRS, BW, MAW, JM, EM, LK(Jr), HW, MW, MJB, JJ, LJ, NJW, RH, DC, CAH, DSH, Iven Stephen and whoever knows me. I really miss you guys a lot. I had fun there. I wish I could see you guys again. I'll try to come down whenever. Take good care of yourselves and don't party too much. From your friend in Nemaska, M.J.W. (Sr.)

To Mom, thank you for always being there for me when I wake up in the middle of the night, when I had chicken pox, when I needed to be changed or when I just wanted to be held... I love you Mom. From Mathew.

I would like to say hi to Allen H. and Louis Rene K. I hope you guys did well in Eastmain. I'll see you guys in March and I'll want my money (I'll bring shoes and shorts) From Mark P. on Ott.

To the people of Nemaska: We don't know how to thank you all. The wedding of my son and his new bride, Glen and Agnes, was a great success because you all did a marvelous and super job. The caterers and all the cooks were fabulous. I would like to thank Maggie Minister, the head chef. We thank Kirby and Rose for their splendid job on decorating and all the girls. With laughter we would like to know the driver behind the cart who ran over one of the girls who was catering the wedding! Finally we would like to thank all those that stayed until 4:00 a.m. and mopped and waxed the floors. Our best to Freddie Jollly, Walter Jolly and Andrew Coonishish for all their help. And a specials thank you to Meechum who donated 12 large turkeys. Our special guest, Jim Felix, was very happy and pleased with the arrangements made for him by the people of Nemaska. We couldn't have done any of it without you. You all gave Glen and Agnes a great start to a new life. Marion and Vincent Shecapio of Mistissini.

I would like to say hi to my lovely JM in Waskaganish and tell her that I will never forget your beautiful eyes and especially our memories. From that lonely man who is still waiting for you, my love. From Razor. xoxoxo.

Hi Cat. Just a reminder that I love you very much. Life here in the city gets pretty hectic at times. That's when I think of you the most, wishing you were here with me. I can't

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wait to see you again. All my love. From George in Lachine, Qc.

To my godmother Karen Ouellet. I am going to miss you while you are gone. I hope you will enjoy your vacation. Love always, your godson Jamie (Boy) Weetaltuk. From Kuujuaraapik.

Hello to John and Elizabeth Trapper from Chibougamou. haven't heard from you two in a while. Please write me if you have my address. from your friend Lorrain in Moosonee, Ontario. God bless! P.O. Box 977, Moosonee, Ont. P0L 1Y0.

I would like to say hi to my best friend Eric Gull. I hope our friendship lasts forever and ever. From your best friend Bruno.

If you didn't get a 1996 *Nation* calendar yet, don't despair! There are a few left. On sale for $10. There are still 319 days left this year! Call *The Nation* at 514-272-3077.

500-VALENTINES

We would like to wish our mother Dorothy a happy Valentine's Day. Although we do not tell you every day that you mean the world to us. We hope you know just how much we love you and appreciate you. We feel very fortunate to have a mom like you. We love you. From your children, Eleanor, Loretta, Alfred, Bradley, Ashley, Melvin and Vanessa.

I would like to wish happy Valentine's day to my three little Rascals, Renee, Amelia and Tyrone (Little Beaver) and to my sweetheart husband Rene. I love you all so dearly, couldn't make it without you guys. xxx From me.

I want to wish a happy Valentine's Day to my best friend, my one and only lasting love Mario Lord. I love him with all my heart and soul. If you find love, set it free, if it doesn't come back to you, it wasn't meant to be, if it does, it was yours to keep. From fiancee Jeanne S. Waswanipi. xoxoxoxo.

Happy St. Valentine's to all the girls at Casey's in Oujé-Bougoumou. Hope you all enjoy this day and God bless you and all in friendship. Always, Bentley.

We would like to wish a happy Valentine's Day to Adrian. We love you and we always will. With love, Eleanor, Kyle and Kylene.

To Desiree and Fantasia, Happy Valentine's Day my loves. Oh, how my hands long to wander again. From Brad/Kato.

To my one and only. May this St. Valentine's Day be one of love and happiness. May God's love shine upon you as each day goes by. Though I may forget to tell you how much I love you, just remember that II do. Love always, Ben "Petry" Mianscum.

This special Valentine note goes out to the one I love. My wife Tanya B. Happy Valentine, darling and many more to come. Love, Barry. Waskaganish.

I want to wish a happy Valentine's Day to a great guy, Karl Simard. I can't wait to see you and you little red Neon outside my window. From Karly. P.S. I'll be on the lookout!

I want to wish my son Lyle a happy 1st Valentine's Day. You've been a great little fellow since the day we brought you home. From Mom and Dad, Tanya and Barry Blackned (Wask).

We would like to say happy Valentine's Day to Priscilla Bosum and to Naomi Bosum. Fr. Caroline and Sarah B/Smith. Wasw. Also I would like to say happy Valentine's Day to Cynthia Blackned. From Caroline B/Smith.

Bless that little Cupid for shooting that arrow in our direction. Just when I thought it could never be, it happened. Happy Valentine's Day, hon. You're the best time I ever had. Love, your wife.

Janie Pash, Louis Neacappo, Paul Pachano, Jody House and Brian Monias (my buddies), there are no other guys that I love more than you guys. You remain my Valentines for the rest of my life...Love, Cita.

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The Cree School Board, Sabtuan Adult Education in partnership with Heritage College program in Hull is currently conducting an accredited full-time College program in two of the nine northern communities. (Mistissini, an inland community located approximately 835 kms north of Montreal, and Chisasibi, a James Bay coastal community located approximately 1,541 kms north of Montreal). The five course, two semester program began in October 1995 and is being delivered by Heritage College located in Hull.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The college and each community is equipped with a state-of-the-art Video Conference system. Using two separate phone lines, one for video and one for audio, this system dials two phone numbers to a "Bridge" where all three sites data signals are combined and transmitted back to each simulating a classroom environment. The "Bridge" allows the students at each site to see and talk with their instructors and classmates face-to-face every weekday by way of video transmission. The classrooms use a "boardroom" layout with cameras, microphones, and 30" T.V. monitors strategically placed to give the instructor and the students a clear view of each other during class. This allows the use of whiteboards (no longer blackboards) and visual teaching aids that are critical to certain course delivery, such as Mathematics. Each classroom is also equipped with a "Document Camera" specifically designed to show handwritten assignments to the instructor for comments before they are sent for official marking.

We have installed an Avermedia unit which allows us to combine our micro computer with the whole system. This option enables everyone on the system to realize collaborative computing! Any student can work in a particular software application and share it with the instructor or their classmates at the other site.

Each site has an educational assistant who operates the equipment, shows students how to use the technology and provides classroom support to the instructors and students.

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Video conference opens doors to the future for the Cree Nation. Many prospective students living in northern communities, have responsibilities and obligations which limit their opportunity to leave their community to obtain a higher education. This video-conference system gives them the chance to further their education without leaving home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Mr. Charles Matoush,
Director of Adult Education and Post Secondary Services,
216 Amisk Street, Lake Mistissini, Quebec, G0W 1C0
Phone: (418) 923-3347 Fax: (418) 923-2270

QUEBEC FIRST NATIONS YOUTH REHABILITATION CENTRE

Funded by Health Canada, the Centre will be receiving from 16 to 25 First Nations youths of both sexes that are abusing solvents. The six month residential treatment will include components of pre and post treatment presenting significant interface with the communities. The Program will be bilingual in French and English.

The exact site has not yet been established but will be located on reserve in Quebec.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Under the governance of the Board of Directors, the incumbent oversees the entire operations of the Centre but, as this is a new program, the Director will have first to support the construction or renovation of the building(s), to lead the development of the clinical activities, to hire staff, to develop management systems and to help with all aspects of the implementation process. The successful candidate should be a manager having already demonstrated abilities in similar context and a person capable of efficient autonomous work.

REQUIREMENTS

University degree in a related field or experience considered equivalent
Experience with program management associated with health or social services
Experience with youth services
Experience with addiction services, preferably solvent abuse
Bilingualism in French/English required
Availability to travel
Fluent use of a Native language will be considered a definite asset

Resumes should be received at the following address before 4:00 PM on March 01, 1996;
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